*173 When he had been freed, Déni-ba Bo left at once to rejoin his brother Séba Mana. The latter was still shaken by an encounter that very morning with the Khassonké [Kasonke] who had had a column composed of 60 "foot." Mounting his horse, Séba Mana wanted to show his brother the scene of the battle. When they reached a small stream, the horses easily crossed over, but Séba Mana, who was very corpulent, hurt himself against the pommel of his saddle. With Déni-ba Bo's help he was able to reach home, but he fell gravely ill and died three months later (1).

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●855
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1. Séba Mana had established a special system of physical training for the young Massa-si boys. From the time they were weaned up to the age of twelve or thereabouts, they were brought up away from their families and were provided with a copious diet, consisting especially of meat which they ate almost raw. They were trained in boxing. Slaves bathed them morning and evening. When they reached the age of twelve, each received from the fama a complete set of clothes, a thoroughbred horse with harness and groom. They then returned to their father's house and were thus ready to swell the ranks of the army if need arose.

*173 Déni-ba Bo (1760-1780). The army of the Massa-si was still very weak since it had at that time only two "foot" instead of four. Nevertheless, Déni-ba Bo was determined to regain the land of his forefathers and said: "I intend to free myself from the n ti de and the n kho le (2)." He had cowries pulverized,

2. n ti de means "I say" in Soninké and n kho le means the same thing in Khassonké. Thus, Déni-ba Bo meant that he intended to free himself from both peoples.